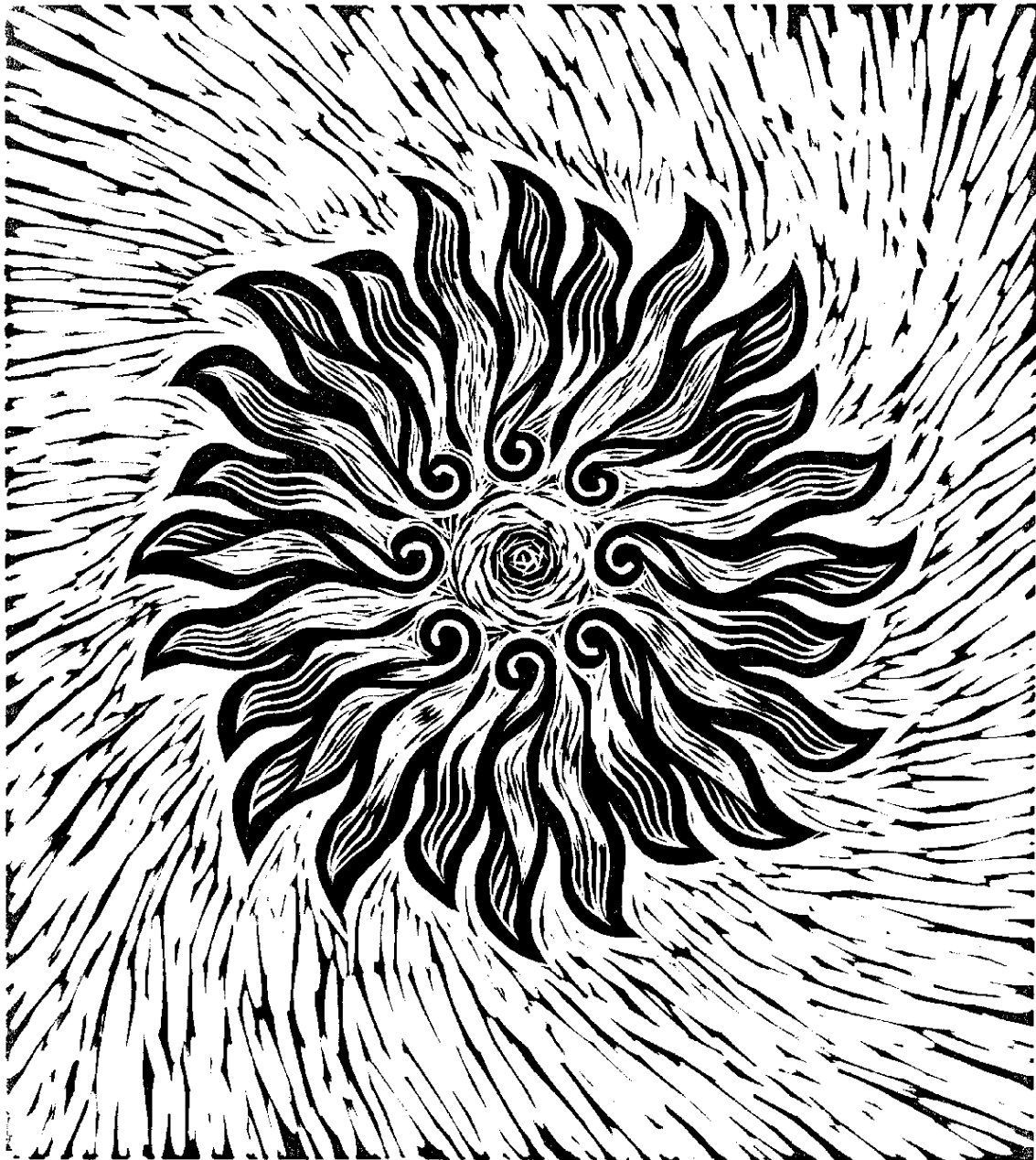


EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



JANUARY 6, 2021

WELCOME

*We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church!
If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME,
If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK.
If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters.
If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon,
Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!*

Again welcome ...

PRE-SERVICE

Behold That Star!
arr. by Mark Hayes © OneLicense.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin. Please note that all congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.*

We are silent as we prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

Love Came Down to Bethlehem
© CCLI 7121448

EPIPHANY DIALOGUE

We stand and face the baptismal font.

We give thanks on this holy day, adorned with epiphanies:
for the star that led the magi to the manger,
that the nations may see the light of Christ;

for the water turned to wine at Cana's wedding,
that the people taste the goodness of the Lord;

for the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan,
that the Christ would save us all.

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sinfulness and asking for God's forgiveness.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,
***we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.***

***We have turned away from your invitation to new life.
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,
those we know and those known only to you,
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.***

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!
God forgives us all our sins,
not through our own work,
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.
With all who come to the manger,
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.
Amen.

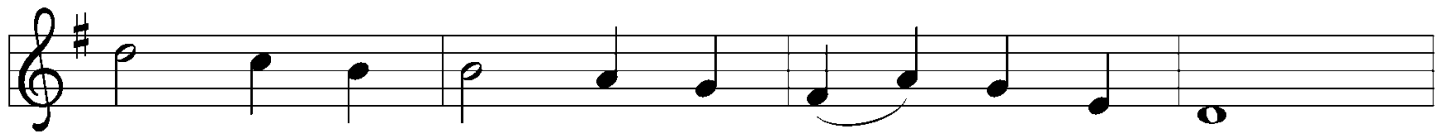
HYMN

Brightest and Best of the Stars

Public Domain



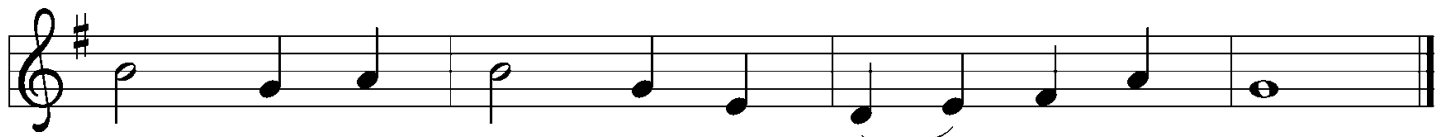
1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

GREETING

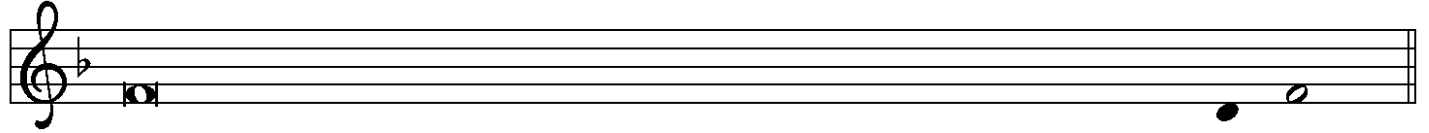
God who sent the Light into our world, God who shone in the Bethlehem manger, God who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all. ***And also with you.***

KYRIE

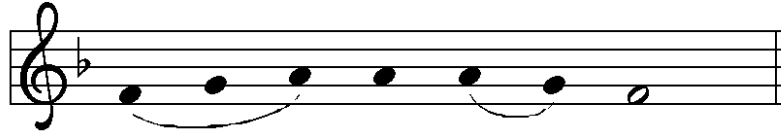
Augsburg Fortress #SB153820



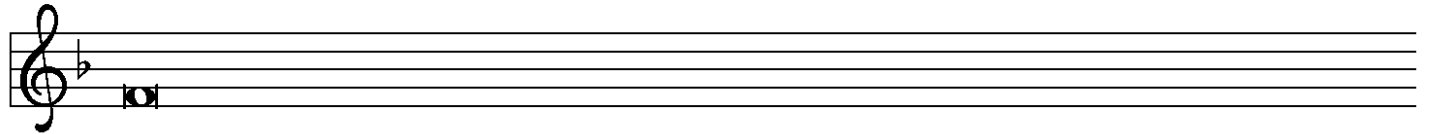
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



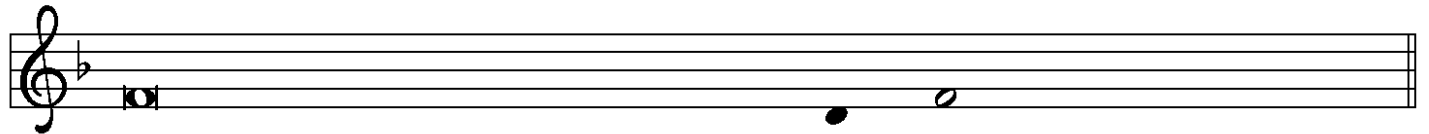
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



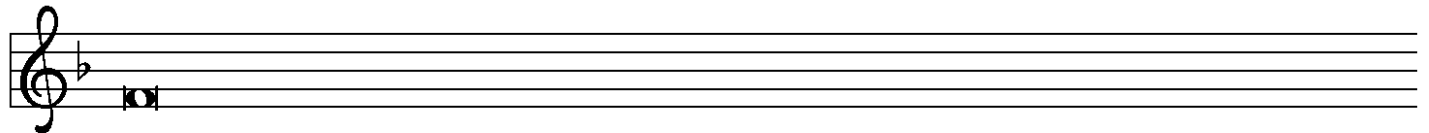
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



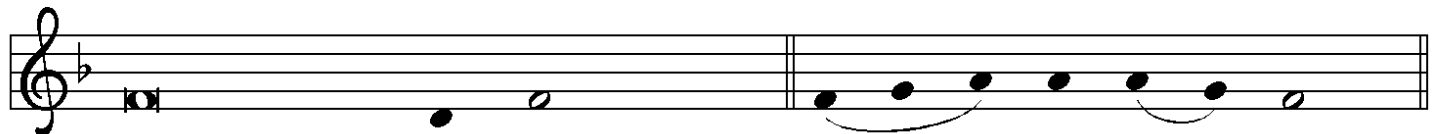
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



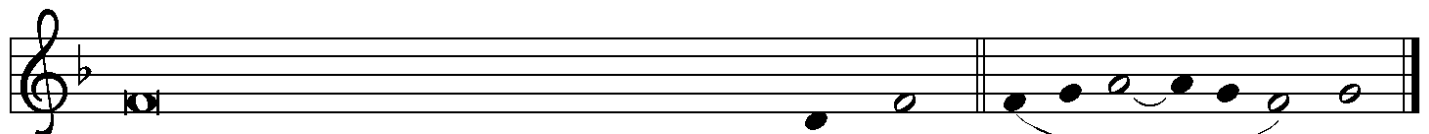
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

GLORIA

Augsburg Fortress #SB153820

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

THE WORD

READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried
on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.
The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MUSIC

Alleluia

J.S. Bach Public Domain

We stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to

return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation.

Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

SERMON

Bible people

MUSIC

Our Messiah's Birth

© CCLI 7162844

We stand.

HYMN

The First Noel

Public Domain



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition:

Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

The Prayers conclude:

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. ***Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;***

***and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

We sit.

THE MEAL

Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places.

OFFERING

We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.com and click on "On-line Giving." You may also mail your check to 3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169. Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship.

OFFERING

Come, Follow That Star

Besig © OneLicense.net

We stand.

OFFERTORY

What Child Is This

Public Domain



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

Gracious God,

you came to us as one unknown,

bringing joy and salvation to the earth.

Nourish us at your banquet table,

that with all who welcome your birth

we may proclaim your peace,

revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE SENDING**BLESSING**

Almighty God,
 who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
 proclaimed joy through the angels,
 sent the shepherds with good news,
 and led the magi by a star,
 bless you this day † through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

HYMN*As With Gladness Men of Old*

Public Domain



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

DISMISSAL

We are God's people on a mission.

We have gathered and have been fed. We are now sent to make a difference in the world.

Amen.

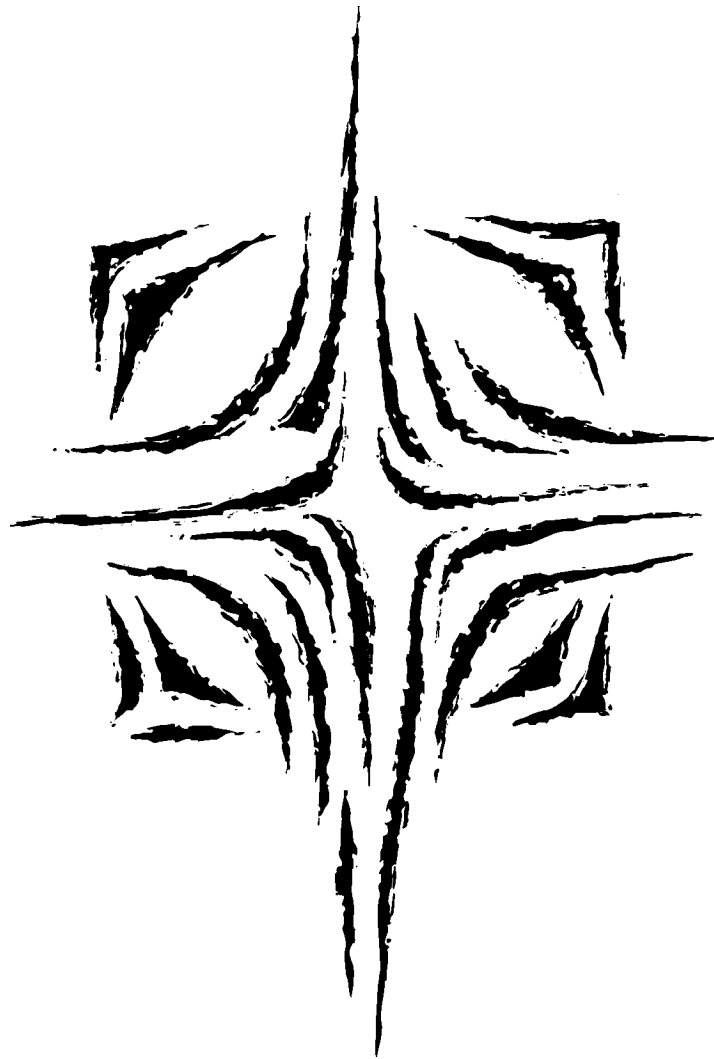
We sit.

POSTLUDE

Let Us Be Your Light

Joseph M. Martin © CCLI 2583675

Please remain seated until the usher instructs you to exit. Also, please maintain proper distancing as you exit the sanctuary.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in gratefulness for the Mt. Hermon family. The kindness and generosity you display to my family, not only at Christmas, but all year long, deeply touches my heart! Pastor Gina



2021 Altar Flowers

Sign-up board is in the office hallway. You can sign-up when in the church or by calling the church.

Communion Distribution and Blessings

1st and 3rd Sunday
10:30 am to noon

Enter paved parking lot near the bus
and loop in front of the church office.



Sunday School

on Zoom
2nd & 4th Sundays
10:30 a.m.

To join the group, please email
pastorgina@WeAreMtHermon.com



MT HERMON PRAYS ...

Family of Lois Watson

Family of Lila Catt

In the hospital Marvin Mathias, *Prisma Baptist*

Continual Prayers

Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens*

Alberta Berry, *home*

Hazel Bockus, *Carolina Gardens*

Nell Buff, *home*

Margie Hook, *home*

Rev. Everette Price, *home*

June Roof, *Rapha*

Tom Roof, *home*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Buddy Hydrick

Jo Leach

Jane Sexton

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Lois Moore & family, *family of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*

Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*

Don Morris, *father of Keith Morris*

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*

Mandy McLemore, *co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price*

John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*

Sherri Crapps, *sister-in-law of Linda Waters-Hamilton*

Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances Sease*

Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*

Eric Powell, *friend of Kim Fulmer*

Jason Wardlaw, *friend of congregation*

Andrew & Candice Coleman, *friends of Erica Conklin*

David Hydrick, *cousin of Buddy Hydrick*

Clara Shultz, *friend of Sheila Starkey*

Debbie Smith & family, *niece of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*

Sarah Hiltz, *granddaughter of Buddy & Angie Hydrick*

Charlotte & Paul Nelson, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Richard Lindler, *friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*

Robert Lindler, *father of Cassie Swygert*

Bob Eastwood, *brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley*

Harold & Mary Prater, *parents of Ray Prater*

Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*

Chuck Bachman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*

Floyd Fuller, *uncle of David Marsh*

Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*

Gary & Linda Hodgins, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Ted Franklin, *cousin of Cyndi Leaphart*

Kathy Brown, *friend of congregation*

Donnie Shumpert, *brother-in-law of Andrea Bowers & Jan Schofield*

Jim Maddox, *son of Doris Maddox*

Melinda Ruff, *friend of Gene & Jan Schofield*

Tressa Oswalt, *sister of Angie Hydrick*

Sally Ortman, *friend of Ricky & Lynn Bouknight*

Don Cope, *friend of Ricky & Lynn Bouknight*

The Logan Sharpe family, *teammate/friend of Skyler Miller*

Patricia Barber, *sister of Danny Scott*

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, January 10th Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

- 9:00 am Worship – In-person and Live Stream
- 10:30 am Sunday School via Zoom
- 3:00 pm Confirmation Class
- 6:00 pm Council Meeting

Monday, January 11th

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 13th

- 9:00 – 11:00 Food Pantry (Diane Boulware & Mary Frances Sease)

Friday, January 15th

- 12:00 pm Bulletins will be in mailboxes

Saturday, January 16th

- 9:00 – 11:00 am Food Pantry (Lynn Bouknight & Karen Nicholson)



www.WeAreMtHermon.com
3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169
803.794.6430

Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Rev. Gina D. Metze, <i>Pastor</i>	803.951.3784	<i>PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com</i>
Ruthie Brannen, <i>Director of Music</i>		<i>RuthieBrannen@gmail.com</i>
Susan LaCons, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	803.794.6430	<i>Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com</i>
Matt Hansen, <i>Seminarian</i>		<i>Matthew.Hansen@my.lr.edu</i>

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Ronnie Fulmer, <i>President</i>	Marion Leaphart, <i>Vice President</i>
Robin Ellisor, <i>Secretary</i>	Parker Boulware, <i>Treasurer</i>
Annette Price, <i>Financial Secretary</i>	Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, <i>Sextons</i>

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Wednesday, January 6th Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 – 11:00 Food Pantry (Angie Hydrick & Doris Maddox)

7:00 pm Epiphany Service – In-person & Live Stream

Thursday, January 7th

6:00 pm Health & Safety Task Force Meeting via Zoom

Friday, January 8th

12:00 pm Bulletins will be in mailboxes

Saturday, January 9th

9:00 – 11:00 Food Pantry (Parker & Diane Boulware)